



**CITY OF EUREKA**

EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

604 C Street

Eureka, California 95501-0341

(707) 441-4060

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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1/21/13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: EPD Unveils New Citizen Recognition Award Program**

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The Eureka Police Department is committed to promoting community policing concepts and positive relations with the public we serve. On behalf of the Eureka Police Department and City of Eureka, Chief Murl Harpham is pleased to announce EPD's implementation of a new "**Challenge Coin Award Program.**" The award program, also known as the "**Valor-Service Award,**" was designed as a means for officers to recognize citizens who "*commit acts of extraordinary kindness, unselfishly give of themselves to help others, or perform other good deeds that go above and beyond the normal courtesies society expects.*"

To this end, EPD commissioned the creation of a special "challenge coin," which may be awarded to citizens and employees who give of themselves in an exceptional manner. The unique full-color coin represents the Eureka Police Department's honored values of VALOR, SERVICE, and COMMUNITY and may be carried proudly. These values are printed on the coin's face surrounding the Great Seal of the State of California. The reverse side of the coin depicts the emblem found on the Eureka Police Department patch.

Eureka Police Department employees are encouraged to be vigilant in recognizing acts of extraordinary kindness or helpfulness by another toward their fellow citizens--deeds that truly rise above commonplace acts of courtesy among people in our society. The intent



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of the program is to seek out citizens worthy of recognition, while also maintaining high standards for the award in order to retain the special status that should accompany any coin presentation.

Once an employee makes this judgment and wishes to reward a person with a coin, his/her recommendation will be forwarded to the Office of the Chief of Police for review. When approved, the Chief or his designee will award the Valor-Service challenge coin to the recipient along with a formal certificate of appreciation/recognition prepared by the Chief's Office.

During the Eureka City Council meeting last Tuesday night (1/15/13), "local philanthropist" Betty Chinn became the first recipient of the Valor-Service challenge coin award. Speaking before the council, Chief Harpham awarded Chinn a coin along with a certificate of appreciation in honor and recognition of her over 20 years of selfless service to the homeless and disenfranchised in Eureka.



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